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~~22~~ (New) The method of Claim ~~17~~³ where target molecules comprise tumor necrosis factor in the blood.

~~23~~ (New) The method of Claim ~~17~~ wherein target complex molecules comprise receptor and carrier molecules in the blood.

~~24~~ (New) The method of Claim ~~17~~ wherein target complex molecules comprise immune complexes in the blood.

REMARKS

The Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 10, 2003. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 12-20 were pending in this Application. Claims 12-20 were rejected. To expedite allowance and further clarify the invention, Applicants have cancelled Claims 12-16, amended Claim 17 and added Claims 21 -24, and respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claims 17-20 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that Claim 17 as amended is now patentable as are Claims 18-24 that depend on Claim 17.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have amended Claim 17 on which Claims 18-20 depend, to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

Applicants also note that the respective features of their invention as defined in new Claims 21-24 in combination with amended Claim 17 are novel and non-obvious.

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Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 17-20 as amended are now patentable. Applicants request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claims 17-20 as amended.

Corrected Declaration

Applicants respectfully submit a corrected Declaration in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.67(a).

CONCLUSION

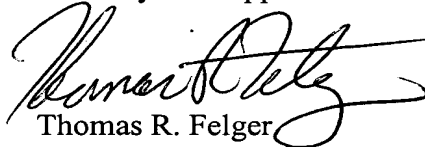
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request that the claims as amended be allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that amendments are supported by the Specification and add no new matter. Early and favorable acceptance of this Application is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Claims by the current amendments. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Applicants do not believe there are any fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

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Date: 17 MAR 2003

Enclosure: Corrected Declaration and Power of Attorney

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 17 and add new Claims 21 –24 as follows:

17. **(Amended)** A method for removing target molecules and target complex molecules from a patient's blood, comprising:

circulating a stream of the patient's blood through a very large pore hemofilter having a nominal molecular weight cutoff greater than approximately 150,000 Daltons to sieve target molecules and target complex molecules from the blood stream and the nominal molecular weight cutoff less than approximately 1,000,000 Daltons to avoid removal of significant amounts of immunoglobulins [**and similar large molecules**] to prevent increasing the risk of opportunistic infection;

removing an ultrafiltrate containing the target molecules and target complex molecules from the blood stream using the hemofilter;

replacing the ultrafiltrate removed from the blood stream with a replacement fluid having clean target receptor molecules;

providing sufficient clean albumin to maintain adequate plasma oncotic pressure; and

providing the clean albumin and clean target receptor molecules to attract additional inflammatory mediators and toxins from tissue spaces and tissue binding sites in a patient.

Please add the following new Claims:

21. **(New)** The method of Claim 17 wherein target molecules comprise toxins unbound and bound to albumin in the blood.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

22. (New) The method of Claim 17 where target molecules comprise tumor necrosis factor in the blood.

23. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein target complex molecules comprise receptor and carrier molecules in the blood.

24. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein target complex molecules comprise immune complexes in the blood.